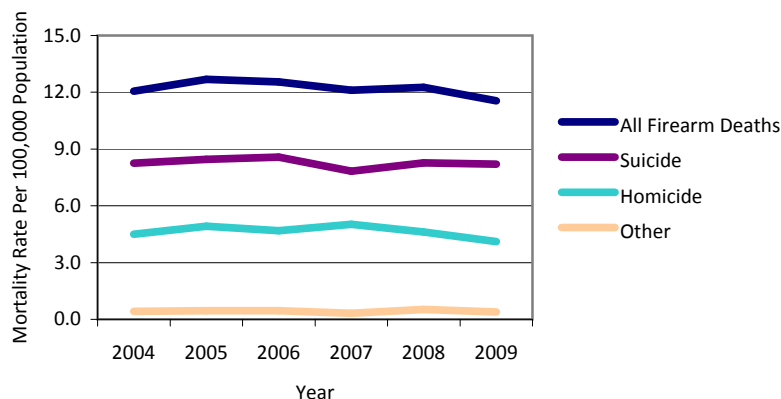


Firearm Deaths in North Carolina

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes firearm-related deaths among North Carolina residents for the year 2009.

**N.C. Annual Firearm Death Rates:
NC-VDRS, 2004-2009**



- In 2009, there were 1,083 firearm-related deaths among North Carolina residents.

- Causes of death attributable to firearm mortality include suicide (61%), homicide (36%), legal intervention involving discharge of firearm (2%), unintentional discharge of firearm (1%), and undetermined intent (<1%).

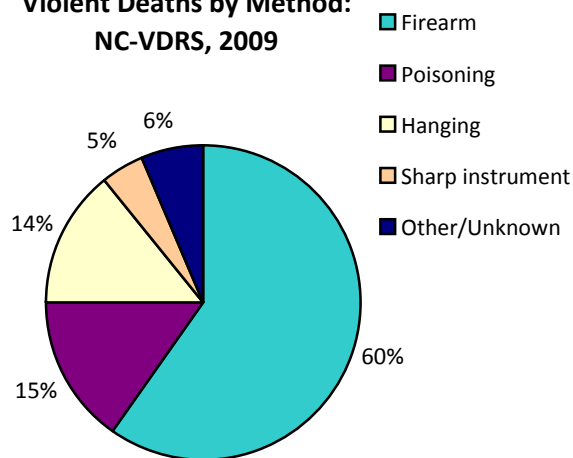
- The rate of firearm-related deaths was relatively stable from 2004 (12.1) to 2009 (11.5).

- The mortality rates (per 100,000 persons) for firearm-related deaths in 2009 were: suicide 8.2, homicide 4.1, and other (unintentional, legal intervention and undetermined) 0.4.

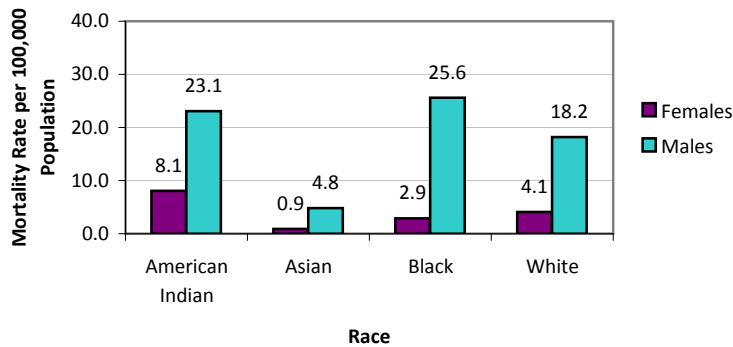
- The most common locations of firearm deaths were apartment or home (72.7%); street/road, sidewalk or alley (8.7%); motor vehicle (excluding school bus or public transportation) (3.2%); natural area (e.g., field, woods, beaches) (3.1%); and parking lot/public garage (2.8%).

- More than half (60%) of all violent deaths in North Carolina were due to firearms.

**Violent Deaths by Method:
NC-VDRS, 2009**



Firearm Death Rates by Sex and Race: NC-VDRS, 2009



- Black (25.6) and American Indian (23.1) men had the highest firearm mortality rate compared to white (18.2) and Asian (4.8) men.

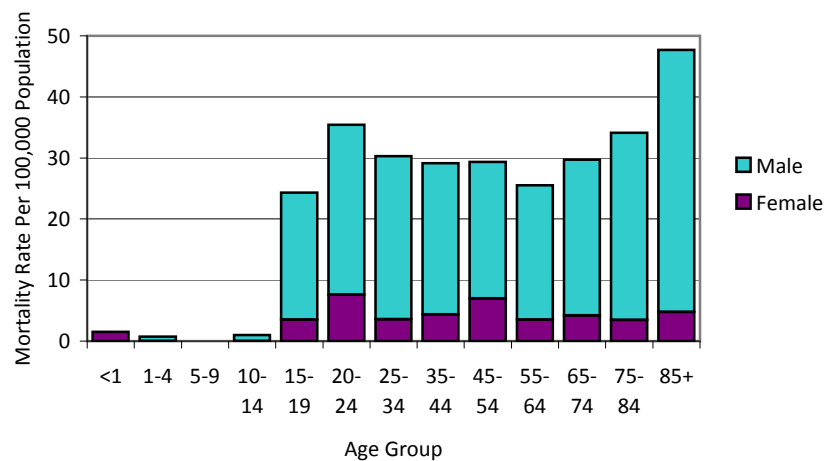
- Although rates were much lower in females than males, American Indian women had the highest firearm mortality rate (8.1) compared to other races: white (4.1), black (2.9), and Asian (0.9).

- The majority of firearm-related deaths were male (83%).

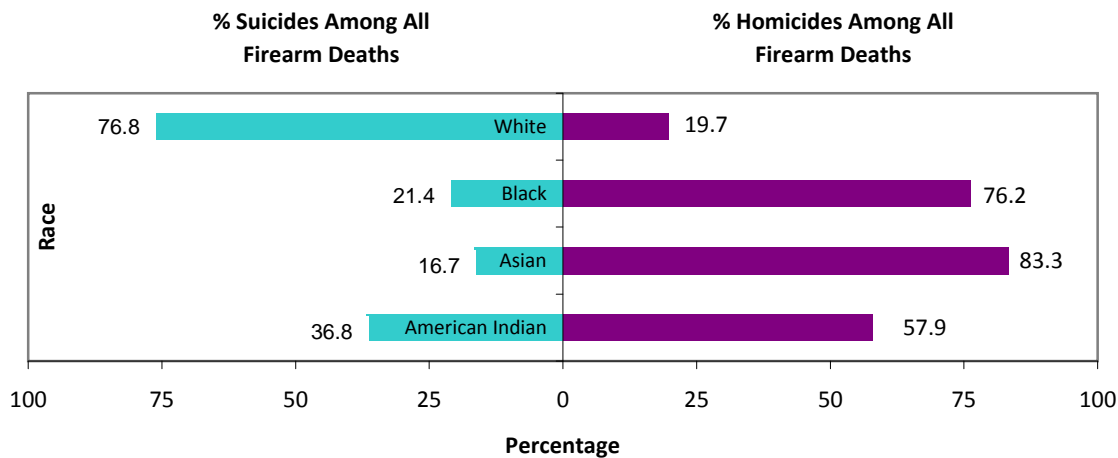
- The firearm-related mortality rate peaked in men ages 85 plus at a rate of 42.9, while the rate among women peaked for ages 20-24 at a rate of 7.6.

- Suicide was the most common type of firearm-related death among whites (76.8%) and American Indians (36.8%), while homicide was the most common type among blacks (76.2%) and Asians (83.3%). American Indians had only 19 firearm deaths and Asians had only six firearm deaths in 2009.

Firearm Death Rates by Sex and Age: NC-VDRS, 2009



Percent of Suicides and Homicides Among All Firearm Deaths by Race: NC-VDRS, 2009



The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement SU17/CE423098-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit / 919-707-5425 / www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov
N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov

N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

